

KARO-ECHO Membership Meeting

January 11, 2021

via Zoom

Attendees

Hal Graboske	KK6NDF
Howdy Goudey	KE6BEE
Larry Vanselow	KK6GIO
Tom Fattaruso	KN6BUY
Don Simon	NI6A
Natalie DeJarlais	KM6UCF
Diane Richwine	KK6RED
David Swanson	KJ6AAT
Marian Gade	KC6OBK
Jerry Michaels	K6KOP
Karen Leong Fenton	KK6ZPM
Jay Fenton	KJ6WSS
Susan Yeaman	KN6CMR
Blake Yeaman	KN6CMP

Agenda:

Radio Equipment Infrastructure

Training

Outreach and Recruiting

Funding

Business session

Hal opened the meeting at 7PM

The December meeting minutes were approved.

The meeting agenda was approved.

Radio Equipment Infrastructure - BEE/NI6A

Subjects brought up:

- Existing clubhouse installations and fire stations may need work on radio equipment,

- antennas, and backup power.
- An antenna and patchbox installation is needed at Cerrito Vista and Canyon Trail Parks.
- EC City Hall Com. Center needs a frayed cable repaired or replaced, the patchbox should also be checked.
- Equipment has been removed from EC Senior Center.
- Harding School has old equipment.
- Howdy reported that a spreadsheet exists with a listing of what equipment is in which location.

Questions raised:

- What new equipment is needed and for what location?
- Where are shelter locations and is there a disaster plan?

Training and Operations - BEE

In addition to the training that is currently done in our weekly nets, monthly membership meetings, and twice-yearly SETs, suggestions were made for other training opportunities:

- Train for changing location and shift changes during a SET
- Train for interfacing with CERT, as EC9 did on the last SET
- Train for interfacing with small neighborhood groups

Elmering:

- The KE website elmering function needs to be more accessible and easier to use.
- Hall suggested a chat room format

Recruiting and Outreach - SWK

- Annette is composing a letter to deliver to local amateurs with an invitation to join KARO-ECHO.
- Howdy suggested contacting new CERT graduates.

Funding - GIO

- Larry continues to work on grants.
- The KE website Pay-Pal function is being worked on but is not functioning yet. The best way to pay dues for now is to mail a check to the KE PO box address.

Other subjects:

- A process is now available for distributing the 20 contributed GMRS radios at no cost to neighborhood net participants who will obtain a GMRS license, participate in training exercises, and return the radio if it is no longer used. The process will begin

- by emailing Hal.
- Obtaining a club call sign was proposed. A motion was made, seconded, and approved. It was suggested that this be done before the fee increase.

Meeting training session - BEE and NI6A

Points made in a digital communication mode demonstration:

- Digital modes will not replace voice communication but be an alternative or augmentation.
- A demonstration of Winlink, an email-like mode, was recently made in Walnut Creek.
- The digital mode “VARA” is faster and more capable than older modes.
- Howdy and Don demonstrated sending 5 files via VARA which included plain text, message forms, and images. Image file transfers are much faster than fldigi.
- If a radio does not have a data port an audio interface will be required for VARA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM